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CORRESPONDENCE

We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinion expressed by correspondence.

THE OTTAWA STRIKE.

Editor of THE CITIZEN.

Sir,—In concluding his letter (as published in THE CITIZEN last Saturday) Mr. Booth says, "Seemingly the most grievous part of the strike is the large number of men who are most anxious to go to work to provide for themselves and their families, but are not permitted to do so. These are the men who are entitled to sympathy." There is certainly no disputing this statement of Mr. Booth's; therefore, it is in consideration of this "large number of men . . . and their families," that the community here generally must naturally be disposed to urge Mr. Booth and his fellow millowners, to make any reasonable and moderate concession for the present; that the two months' work may be done while it is possible to do it; for there will be abundance of time afterwards in which to agree upon terms which may be permanently satisfactory to both parties, so as to leave neither excuse nor occasion for any strike henceforth in the Ottawa lumber business, at least. It is understood now that no increase of wages is required, but only what appears to people generally to be the very reasonable and moderate concession of ten hours work instead of eleven. A better opportunity could scarcely occur for Mr. Booth to demonstrate that his humane disposition may transcend his natural firmness, or obstinacy (as the case may be), whenever the occasion may justify, or require, any such temporary relaxation of the otherwise rigid rules of discipline. Should Mr. Booth now suffer this very favourable opportunity to pass unheeded, it would naturally be very much to his discredit, and to that of his fellow millowners also, should the strikers be induced in good time to yield to what would be perhaps both wise as well as humane considerations (under the circumstances), and so prove themselves more humane, if not more obstinate than the millowners. Or, failing this, should frequent appeals have to be made during the winter to the charitable feelings of the community generally, owing to the ill-timed firmness or obstinacy of both parties, it must be, of course, much to the discredit of both parties.

HENRY WENTWORTH MONE.

Ottawa, 28th Sept., 1891.

